

REMARKS

Applicants have amended paragraph 1 to remove the priority claim as a continuation-in-part of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/178,077, and Patent Cooperation Treaty Application Number PCT/US 01/02316. The applicants respectfully request that the priority claim be changed and respectfully assert that any delay in amending the priority claim was unintentional.

Pending claims 1-18, 20-48 and 56-60 have been cancelled. Applicants request the cancellation of these claims without prejudice and retain the right to prosecute the cancelled claims in a continuation or other related application.

Claims 19, and 49-51 have been amended to remove unnecessary language, and to correct matters of form, and thus are not related to patentability. Claim 19 has also been amended to remove a limitation that applicants assert is not necessary for claim 19 to be patentable. Applicants also respectfully assert that the scope of the claims have not been narrowed as a result of any of the amendments.

Newly added claims are dependent claims 61-66. Support for these claims can be found throughout the specification, in particular, support can be found on the following paragraphs:

Claim 61 – paragraphs 55 *et seq.*;

Claim 62 – paragraphs 86 *et seq.*;

Claim 63 – paragraphs 87 *et seq.*;

Claim 64 – paragraphs 61 *et seq.*;

Claim 65 – paragraphs 89 *et seq.*;

Claim 66 – paragraphs 96 *et seq.*;

Applicants submit this Preliminary Amendment prior to the examination of this application on the merits. Since the present amendment does not introduce new matter, Applicants respectfully request its entry prior to examination of the present application. It is believed that the claims are in condition for allowance and allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, including petition fees and extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-0431. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,
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